

# Lafourche Parish



*"Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community"*

**Healthy People 2010**

## Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Lafourche	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
<b>ECONOMICS, 2000</b>				
% All persons in poverty	16.5%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	22.1%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	6.9%	7.3%	5.8%	--
<b>EDUCATION 2002-2003</b>				
School Expenditure per Student	\$7,154	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	92.6%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	6.8%	7.0%	--	--
<b>MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002</b>				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	8.1	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	89.0%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	84.3%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	10.5%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	15.1%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	0.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	337.9	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	63.0	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	2.2*	5.8	5.1	1.0
<b>STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Heart	228.8	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	195.6	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	38.7	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	58.6	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	27.6	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	22.1	37.8	43.3	--
<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003</b>				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	5.2	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	3.3	2.1	1.5	0.8
<b>HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004</b>				
	<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>HP 2010</b>
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	24.7%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI >30 (adults 20+)	28.1%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	71.6%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	86.6%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	76.0%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

### Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA = Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (\*\*Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EM S/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**History<sup>1, 2</sup>**

One of the largest parishes in square mile area, Lafourche was among the original 12 counties, organized on April 10, 1805. From the French word meaning fork, it is named for Bayou Lafourche, a fork of the Mississippi River. The Washa, Chawasha, and Chitimacha Indian tribes were the first inhabitants. When the Acadians saw this fertile land, they immediately settled and began farming, fishing, trapping, and cooking, all in which they still excel.



Each parish in Louisiana has its own charm and uniqueness. Lafourche is not exception. It is considered to have the longest line village in the world ó 65 miles of farms and homes fronting Bayou Lafourche, from Thibodaux to Leeville. The parish offers Cajun hospitality, plantation homes, antique shops, swamp tours, charter fishing, festivals, and Mardi Gras celebrations. In Thibodaux, visit the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center or Laurel Valley Village, an operating 19th-century sugar plantation. See St. John's Episcopal Church, the oldest Episcopal church west of the Mississippi. St. Joseph Catholic Cathedral, with its ornate artwork, is listed on the national Register of Historic Places. Nicholls State University features Allen J. Ellender Memorial Library with displays of the region including the Evangeline Baseball League Collection, Center for Traditional Louisiana Boat Building, and the Allen J. Ellender Archives.

**Parish Seat<sup>3</sup>** ..... Thibodaux

**Major Cities** (population over 5,000)

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| ▪ Cut Off  | ▪ Thibodaux |
| ▪ Galliano | ▪ LaRose    |
| ▪ Raceland |             |

**Parish Population<sup>4</sup>**

2000.....	190,503
2003 (estimate) .....	91,281
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	73.4%
African-American .....	23.8%
Some other race.....	2.8%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race) .....	0.7%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years .....	7.3%
5-14 .....	15.3%
15-17 .....	4.8%
18-19 .....	3.6%
20-24 .....	8.2%
25-64 .....	51.4%
65 & over .....	9.5%

**Geography and Statistics<sup>5</sup>**

Average elevation .....	15ft.
Land area in square miles .....	1,085
Water area in square miles .....	387.5

**Climate**

Average temperatures	
Annual .....	62°
January .....	53°
July .....	91°
Annual average rainfall .....	64 inches

**Labor Force (2001)<sup>6</sup>**

Lafourche Parish	
Civilian.....	46,406
Employed .....	44,442
Unemployed.....	1,964
Unemployment.....	4.2%
Louisiana	
Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed .....	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate .....	4.8%

**Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)**

- Nicholls State University

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002
2. Louisiana Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism, 1998. keywords: regional information, <<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <[http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF\\_Parishes\\_2000-Present.xls](http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls)>